

09/853,825

Attorney Docket No.: P10374

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving, at a BIOS, a message from an authorized party;
authenticating the message; and
controlling a state of an optional feature of a system resource, using the BIOS, according to the message, wherein the message comprises information to determine the optional feature, and wherein the message further comprises a digital signature.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising verifying an identifier in the message against a unique system identifier of the system.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising writing the message into a secure non-volatile location.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the secure non-volatile location comprises a remote storage.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising splicing the content of the message into an execution path of the BIOS, wherein the splicing comprises at least one of modifying the BIOS or erasing a portion of the BIOS, in response to the message.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising loading and executing content of the message using the BIOS at run-time, wherein the message is received via a network transmission.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating a feature set of the system BIOS according to the message.

09/853,825

Attorney Docket No.: P10374

8. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a system resource having controllable optional features;
a non-volatile memory that stores a BIOS, the BIOS being adapted to receive a secure message from an authorized party for controlling at least one of the optional features, wherein the secure message comprises information to determine the at least one of the optional features.
9. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising a write-once non-volatile unit for storing a public key accessible by the BIOS.
10. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the BIOS includes authentication circuitry for authenticating the secure message with a public key.
11. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising a write-once non-volatile unit for storing a unique system identifier accessible by the BIOS.
12. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the BIOS also includes verification circuitry for verifying an identifier in the message against a unique system identifier.
13. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising a secure non-volatile location for storing at least one of the optional features to be enabled, the location being readable and writable by the BIOS.
14. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the location comprises a remote storage.
15. (previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the BIOS also includes a feature set that is updated according to content of the secure non-volatile storage.
16. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the BIOS loads and executes the content of the message at run-time, wherein the message is received via a network transmission.

09/853,825

Attorney Docket No.: P10374

17. (currently amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive, at a BIOS, a message from an authorized party;

authenticate the message; and

control a state of a feature of a system resource, using the BIOS, according to the message, wherein the message comprises information to determine the optional feature.

18. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to verify an identifier in the message against a unique system identifier of the system.

19. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to write the message into a secure non-volatile location.

20. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the secure non-volatile location comprises a remote storage.

21. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to splice the content of the message into an execution path of the BIOS.

22. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to load and execute the content of the message at the BIOS at run-time, wherein the message is received via a network transmission.

23. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to update a feature set of the system BIOS according to the message.